

Adolphus Sterne Home
Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-834

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174-NACO
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITING HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Texas

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas

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ADOLPHUS STERNE RESIDENCE
Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County, Texas

Owner Unknown

Date of Erection 1830

Architect None

Builder Adolphua Sterne

Present Condition Good

Number of Stories One etory

Other Existing Records None

Materials of Construction Frame. New compo-shingle roof. Good original Hepplewhite mantle.

Additional Data Sterne's diary covering early days is published by State Historical Quarterly. Sam Houston was baptised into the Catholic Church in the principal room of Sterne's residence.

Sterne was a German-Jew and was born in Cologne, Germany April 15, 1801. He came to America in 1824, first settling in New Orleans, La., where he worked for two years during which time he became a mason of high standing. He came to Texas in 1826 with his wife whom he had just married a few months previous, and settled in Nacogdoches. Later, this same year, he opened a merchantile business in Nacogdoches. He was very active during the Freedonian Rebellion, taking sides with the American settlers. His service to the settlers was buying and smuggling guns and ammunition from New Orleans into Texas. However, the Mexican Government caught him and sentenced him to die before a firing squad, but the sentence was subject to the approval of the Mexican president and Sterne was kept in prison until the president could send his approval. In the meantime, Sterne's influential friends that were masons in New Orleans heard of his imprisonment and began work for his release and pardon through General Teran who was a mason of high rank and a close friend of the Mexican President. A few weeks later Sterne was freed, but under conditions that he not again bear arms against the Mexican Government. While Sterne never did again bear arms against the Mexican Government, he did help the Americans in their fight for liberty before and during the Revolution. He was a member of the convention of 1833 and voted for the constitution adopted by that body. Later, at the outbreak of the Revolution he went to New Orleans and organized and equipped a military company known as the New Orleans Grays. It was this company that assisted Col. Milam and Johnson in capturing Bexar. Sterne held several offices during his life and was loved and honored by all who knew him. He was at one time Justice of Peace, County Commissioner,

ADOLPHUS STERNE RESIDENCE
CONTINUED:

Postmaster and State Senator. He also held a commission as Major, signed by his very dear friend President Sam Houston.

The house has but little architectural interest. The present porch is comparatively new- restrained and early jig-saw. It contains, however, a lovely and simple Hepplewhite mantle which more than pays for its other faults.

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